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## ABSTRACT

Questionnaires on the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) were sent to representatives of all the member institutions of the National University Extension Association (NUEA) and the Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE). From the 359 questionnaires distributed, responses were received from 216 institutions or branch campuses, a 60% return. Of these, 160 were from universities, 38 from colleges, and the remaining 18 from community colleges. Responses came from institutions in 47 states and the District of Columbia. Findings revealed that of those responding, 101, or 47%, already had adopted the CEU. The author assumes that over half of the institutions will be using the CEU during the 1975-76 academic year. Of those institutions located within the states included in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 86% have adopted the CEU. The summary of this report indicates that a steady increase in the adoption and use of the CEU by the member institutions of NUEA and ACHE can be readily documented by the responses to the questionnaire. While a projection of this trend would lead to the conclusion that nearly all institutions would be using the CEU within another five years, it must be noted that the institutions surveyed are those having significant continuing education or evening class programs and having full-time continuing education administrators. Thirty-four selected references on the CEU are included, and institutions awarding CEUs are listed. (WL)

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1975 STATUS REPORT ON THE CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT

Survey Summary

The previous questionnaire used to obtain information for the National Task Force about the use of the continuing education unit (CEU) was distributed almost three years ago to those few institutions or individuals who had indicated some interest in the CEU. The 1975 survey was sent to representatives of all the member institutions of the National University Extension Association (NUEA) and the Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE). After duplications in the membership lists were eliminated, 359 questionnaires were distributed.

Responses were received from 216 institutions or branch campuses, a sixty percent return. Of these, 160 were from universities, 38 from colleges, and the remaining 18 from community colleges. Responses came from institutions in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

Institutions Using CEU. Of those responding, 101, or 47 percent, already have adopted the CEU, although in some institutions it has been adopted for use in only one division or school. Assuming that the 20 institutions that are now preparing proposals to adopt the CEU will succeed in having them adopted within the next few months, it is probable that over half of the institutions will be using the CEU during the 1975-76 academic year.

Of those institutions located within the states included in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 86 percent have adopted the CEU. This high acceptance is undoubtedly due to Standard Nine which requires member institutions to report noncredit continuing education in terms of CEU. Other regional accrediting associations have not yet adopted the standard and the result is a lower acceptance rate, 35 percent, in the rest of the country.

Among universities in the rest of the country, the acceptance rate is 45 percent, while only 9 percent of the colleges have accepted the CEU. Within the Southern Association, the percentages are 90 for universities and 67 for other colleges.

While colleges and universities in the Southern Association adopted the CEU very rapidly from 1972 to 1974, other areas of the country started adopting it more rapidly during the current school year, more than doubling the total number of the previous year. The right-hand column in the chart clearly indicates the steady, and even spectacular, increase in the number of institutions using the CEU during the four-year period since the pilot project was initiated during the 1970-71 academic year.

# INSTITUTIONS USING THE C.E.U.

Year CEU Adopted	Southern Association			All Others			Total		
	No. Adopting	Total	%	No. Adopting	Total	%	No. Adopting	Total	%
	(N =50)			(N =166)			(N =216)		
1971-1972	2	2	4.0	6	6	3.6	8	8	3.7
1972-1973	17	19	38.0	10	16	9.6	27	35	16.2
1973-1974	13	32	64.0	11	27	16.3	24	59	27.3
1974-1975	11	43	86.0	31	58	34.9	42	101	46.8

In addition to the institutions included in the survey, respondents reported an additional 45 colleges specifically and suggested that at least 100 additional institutions within various state systems have adopted the CEU concept as a part of a state-wide plan. A list of institutions by state is attached. (Information concerning additions or corrections to be incorporated into this list will be appreciated.)

**Records.** CEU records are maintained by the continuing education or extension division or another academic department in 58 percent of the institutions reporting. It is interesting to note, however, that the percentage is 71 for schools outside the Southern Association but only 41 in the Southern area where the standards call for the records to be maintained by the registrar. The responses indicate that CEU records are more likely to be maintained by the registrar in smaller colleges and community colleges.

Almost 60 percent of the responding institutions use a computer in their record-keeping system. There seems to be no discernable difference in that pattern either because of institutional size or location.

A limited number of institutions reported on the number of individual CEU records that are currently on file. Of these, 20 reported less than 1000 records, 18 between 1000 and 5000 records, 4 over 5000, and 9 institutions reported having 20,000 or more individual CEU records currently in their files.

Of those responding to the question concerning the number of activities selected during the past year for the awarding of individual CEU, half reported less than 50 such activities, 16 percent reported 50 to 99, and another 18 percent reported between 100 and 149 activities. There were no responses between 150 and 200, but the remaining 16 percent reported that 200 activities or more were selected for the awarding of units to individual participants.

By analyzing the responses we were able to determine that the median group size in activities for which CEU were awarded was between 20 and 39, with 47 percent of the institutions falling into this category. There were 18 percent in the category of less than 20, and 22 percent between 40 and 59. The remaining 14 percent were divided evenly with 7% in the 60-79 category, and 7% in the above 80 group. Of the respondents to this section of the questionnaire, 51 reported on the basis of the number of "registrations" and only 9 on the basis of "unduplicated individuals," thus giving some indication of the possible difficulty in collecting data on non-credit activities on the basis of unduplicated individuals as has been the practice in reporting similar data for credit enrollments.

For the few institutions able to report the total number of CEU awarded during 1973-74, the median number of units awarded was between 2.0 and 3.0. The awarding of an average of less than 1.0 CEU was reported by 7 institutions, 13 reported from 1.0 to 1.9, another 9 indicated between 2.0 and 3.0, with a similar number falling between 3.0 and 4.9. There were 4 responses between 6.0 and 9.9 CEU, and the final 4 reported an average of more than 10.0 CEU awarded to each participant.

The reporting of CEU on an annual basis evidently has not yet become standard practice, since only 15 respondents indicated that reports were made in terms of CEU and 6 in terms of FTE. Of these, 12 indicated that the reporting was limited to the departmental level, with 8 each reporting at the institutional and/or state level, and 7 at the regional level.

Of the 102 institutions reporting the use of a specific classification system, 55, or more than half, opted for the USOE or a modification of the USOE or HEGIS system. There were 14 that reported using the Georgia system and another 14 used a statewide system. The NUEA-ACHE annual report categories were the basis for another 7 systems, with the remaining 12 using a variety of different classification systems for their noncredit activities.

Conclusions. The steady increase in the adoption and use of the CEU by the member institutions of NUEA and ACHE can be readily documented by the responses to the questionnaire. While a projection of this trend would lead to the conclusion that nearly all institutions would be using the CEU within another five years, it must be noted that the institutions surveyed are those having significant continuing education or evening class programs and having full-time continuing education administrators, and are, therefore, most likely to be in a situation where the use of the CEU can be helpful. Smaller colleges, however, may be expected to look to these institutions for leadership and to consider seriously following the directions pointed by their colleagues.

The information reported relative to record keeping must be considered inconclusive as to trend, but is interesting as an indication of the present situation within these institutions.

Comments to the National Task Force. Several issues were mentioned in the comments made under this heading. Selected and representative comments are listed here without discussion. We can only say that these will be brought to the attention of the Task Force for consideration in the near future.

"Implementation has been slow but we are now moving with dispatch."

"We could really use identified technical consultants with experience in implementation."

"It would be helpful if information regarding the CEU would be communicated to presidents, vice presidents and chancellors of institutions."

"An exchange of institutional plans of implementation would be helpful."

"A critical issue is maintaining the established standards for the CEU."

"I believe that only colleges and universities should use the CEU."

"If at all possible keep from using CEU as a funding basis."

"We are striving for a quality level that will be meaningful to the participant."

"Further education of business and industry, particularly national companies, as to the value of CEU's would be helpful."

"I still need convincing that the CEU is anything more than a gimmick."

"It is our feeling that these should be offered for professional areas and not for broad liberal education programs."

"Don't get CEU tied up in long involved HEGIS reports."

"Alternative choice of offering CEU and credit for the same program should be questioned."

Keith E. Glancy  
The Johns Hopkins University  
April 4, 1975

## THE CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT

### Institutions and Organizations Reported to be Awarding CEU

Institutions listed that reported using the CEU have not necessarily adopted the CEU for the institution; it may be in use in only one division. Those institutions and organizations designated with an asterisk (\*) were reported to be using the CEU by respondents to the questionnaire. In some instances, separate branch campuses of one institution reported adopting the CEU. The number of campuses is indicated by a number in parenthesis following the institution name.

#### Alabama

University of Alabama (2)

Auburn University

University of South Alabama

Troy State University

\*Most of 4-year institutions and  
junior colleges

\*Alabama State Nurses' Association

#### Arizona

\*Arizona State Nurses' Association

#### California

University of California - Irvine

University of California - Los Angeles

University of California - Riverside

University of California - Santa Barbara

University of California - Santa Cruz

\*The California State University and  
College System is currently develop-  
ing plans for utilizing the CEU within  
the continuing education programs of  
the system's 19 institutions.

#### Colorado

University of Colorado

Colorado State University

#### Connecticut

University of Connecticut

\*Fairfield University

#### Delaware

University of Delaware

\*Brandywine College

\*Goldey Beacon College

\*Wilmington College

\*Marshalltown-McKean Evening College

\*Milford Adult Education Association

\*New Castle County Vocation-Technical  
School

\*Alexis I. duPont Continuing Education  
Program

#### District of Columbia

American University

U.S.D.A. Graduate School

#### Florida

University of Florida

Florida A & M University

Florida Atlantic University

Florida International University

Florida State University

University of Miami

University of North Florida

Pensacola Junior College

University of South Florida

\*University of West Florida

\*All public college-level institutions

\*Florida State Nurses' Association

#### Georgia

DeKalb Community College

University of Georgia

Georgia Institute of Technology

Georgia Southern College

Georgia State University

\*All colleges and universities in  
the University System of Georgia

#### Idaho

University of Idaho

\*Idaho State Nurses' Association

#### Illinois

Bradley University

Northern Illinois University

Southern Illinois University

Western Illinois University

\*A suggested Illinois statewide plan  
is now being formulated

\*Illinois State Nurses' Association



### Indiana

Ball State University  
University of Evansville  
Indiana University  
Purdue University  
\*Vincennes University  
\*Indiana State Nurses' Association

### Iowa

University of Iowa  
\*St. Ambrose College  
\*Area I Community College - Calmar  
\*Area II Community College - Mason City  
\*Area III Community College - Esterville  
\*Area IV Community College - Sheldon  
\*Area V Community College - Ft. Dodge  
\*Area VI Community College - Marshalltown  
\*Area VII Community College - Waterloo  
\*Area IX Community College - Davenport  
\*Area XV Community College - Ottumwa  
\*Iowa Nurses' Association

### Kansas

University of Kansas  
Wichita State University

### Kentucky

University of Kentucky  
Thomas More College  
\*Eastern Kentucky State University  
\*Kentucky State University  
\*University of Louisville  
\*Morehead State University  
\*Murray State University  
\*Western Kentucky State University  
\*University of Kentucky Community College System  
\*Kentucky Nurses' Association

### Louisiana

Delgado Junior College  
Louisiana State University (2)  
\*Members of Louisiana State University System

### Maine

University of Maine  
\*St. Joseph's College  
\*Maine State Nurses' Association

### Maryland

Community College of Baltimore  
Johns Hopkins University  
\*Catonsville Community College  
\*Essex Community College  
\*University of Maryland School of Nursing  
\*Maryland State Nurses' Association

### Massachusetts

Boston College  
\*Mental Health Continuing Education Consortium

### Michigan

University of Michigan  
Michigan State University  
Northern Michigan University  
Oakland University  
Western Michigan University

### Minnesota

University of Minnesota  
\*Sister Kinney Institute

### Missouri

University of Missouri (2)  
Saint Louis University  
Washington University  
\*Missouri State Dietitians' Association

### Nebraska

\*Chadron State College  
\*University of Nebraska Medical Center - Omaha  
\*Concordia Teachers College  
\*Central Nebraska Community College  
\*Southeast Nebraska Community College

### New Hampshire

University of New Hampshire  
\*Keene State College  
\*Plymouth State College

### New Jersey

Rutgers University  
Trenton State College  
\*Educational Testing Service  
\*New Jersey Nurses' Association

### New York

C.W. Post College, Long Island University  
New York Institute of Technology  
New York University  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
State University of New York at Buffalo  
\*American Management Associations  
\*American Society for Medical Technologists  
\*New York State Nurses' Association

### North Carolina

Appalachian State University  
East Carolina University  
North Carolina State University  
\*North Carolina Community Colleges and  
Technical Institutes (58 in system)  
\*North Carolina State Board of Education  
\*North Carolina Nurses' Association

### North Dakota

University of North Dakota

### Ohio

University of Akron  
University of Cincinnati  
John Carroll University  
Ohio State University  
Wright State University  
Youngstown State University  
\*Cleveland State University  
\*Ohio Dominican College  
\*Ohio State Nurses' Association  
\*American Society for Personnel Administration  
\*Gilford Associate Continuing Education  
Program

### Oklahoma

University of Oklahoma  
\*Bethany Nazarene College

### Oregon

Oregon State System of Higher Education

### Rhode Island

\*Rhode Island Junior College

### South Carolina

\*Clemson University  
\*South Carolina Vocational-Technical  
Schools

### South Dakota

\*A Task Force has met to start drawing  
up a state plan

### Tennessee

Memphis State University  
University of Tennessee (5)  
Tennessee Technical University  
\*Shelby State Community College  
\*Tennessee Community College

### Texas

Baylor University  
East Texas State University  
University of Houston  
Texas A. & M. University  
Texas Tech. University  
\*Houston Baptist College  
\*Rice University  
\*Richland College  
\*South Plains College  
\*Texas Western College  
\*Alvin Junior College  
\*Amarillo Community College  
\*Houston Community College  
\*Odessa Community College  
\*Texas Dental Society  
\*Houston Nursing Home Association

### Utah

Brigham Young University  
\*Utah State Nurses' Association

### Virginia

Christopher Newport College  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Virginia Military Institute  
Virginia State College  
Virginia Tech. University  
\*Reynolds Community College  
\*John Tyler Community College  
\*Petersburg General Hospital School  
of Nursing

### Washington

\*Washington State Board of Pharmacy

### West Virginia

West Virginia University  
\*Union Carbide Technical Center  
\*Board of Regents has authorized all  
public institutions of higher  
education to establish CEU system.

### Wisconsin

\*University of Wisconsin

### Wyoming

University of Wyoming  
\*Western Wyoming Community College

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## THE CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT

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